

Message Text

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53

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 DHA-02 /055 W

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O R 181533Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5750

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY OSLO

US MISSION NATO 932

USEC BRUSSELS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MADRID 3876

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, SP

SUBJECT: GOVT DENIES PERMISSION FOR VETERAN'S RALLY ON ANNIVERSARY
OF FRANCO'S DEATH

1. ON MAY 4 JOSE ANTONIO GIRON, AS PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL
CONFEDERATION OF VERERANS, SENT A FORMAL APPLICATION TO THE
INTERIOR MINISTRY FOR PERMISSION TO HOLD A RALLY ON MAY 20. THE
SIX MONTHS ANNIVERSARY OF FRANCO'S DEATH. ORIGINALLY, THE PLAN
WAS TO CONGREGATE IN THE PLAZA MAYOR AND THEN PROCEED THROUGH
OLD MADRID TO THE RUINS OF THE CUARTEL DE LA MONTANA WHICH
NEIGHBORS ON THE ROYAL PALACE. (AT THE BEGINNING OF THE CIVIL
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WAR. THE NATIONALIST REBELS CAUSE WAS FINALLY LOST IN MADRID

WHEN THIS FORTRESS PRISON WHERE THE REMAINDER OF THE REBELS HAD HOLED UP WAS STORMED BY THE POPULACE.) THE PLAN WAS CHANGED TO AN OUTDOOR MASS AT EIGHT IN THE EVENING IN THE PLAZA DE ORIENTE IN FROMT OF THE ROYAL PALACE IT WAS IN THIS PLAZA THAT FRANCO HELD HIS LAST MAJOR RALLY LAST OCTOBER DURING THE INTERNATIONAL UP ROAR OVER THE EXECUTION OF THE ALLEGED TERRORISTS.

2. THE INTERIOR MINISTRY I.E. FRAGA DELAYED SEVERAL DAYS BEFORE MAKING ITS DECISION PUBLIC, EVIDENTLY IN LIGHT OF THE DIFFICULTY IN DENYING PERMISSION FOR A DEMONSTRATION OF THIS NATURE. THE ARCHBISHOP OF MADRID, CARDINAL ENRIQUE TARANCON, HAD GRANTED PERMISSION FOR THE OUTDOOR MASS. THE ARMY MINISTER, LT. GEN. ALVAREZ ARENAS, HAD PUBLICLY STATED THAT HE BELIEVED IT WOULD NOT BE INCONVENIENT FOR THE DEMONSTRATION TO BE HELD AND GIRON HIMSELF HAD SAID THAT THE SOLE PURPOSE FOR THE DEMONSTRATION WAS TO RENDER HOMAGE TO THE MEMORY OF FRANCO-- WE HAVE NOT CALLED A PUBLIC ASSEMBLY TO DEMONSTRATE IN FAVOR OF OR AGAINST ANYONE OR ANYTHING. WE WANT ONLY TO EXALT THAT REMARKABLE PERSONAGE WHICH NOW BELONGS TO THE HISTORY OF SPAIN."

3. IN A MASTERFULLY WORDED NOTE REFUSING PERMISSION FOR THE DEMONSTRATION, THE INTERIOR MINISTRY BESIDES CITING THE INHERENT RISKS TO PUBLIC ORDER OF A LARGE DEMONSTRATION AND THE IMPROPRIETY OF DEMONSTRATIONS IN RESPECT OF OBSERVING THE CAUDILL'S DEATH, SUGGESTED THAT IN VIEW OF THE NATIONAL IMPORTANCE OF THE DAY THAT ANY CEREMONIES ASSUME A NATIONAL CHARACTER WHICH COULD BE BEST ACHIEVED AT FRANCO'S TOMB IN THE VALLEY OF THE FALLEN. GIRON ACCEDED TO THE GOVT DECISION ON BEHALF OF THE CONFEREDATION AND SAID THAT HE WOULD GO AS WELL TO THE VALLEY OF THE FALLEN. THE MAJOR PRESS IN CONGRATULATING THE GOVT. STABLER

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